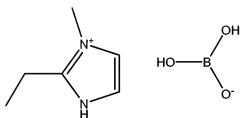


REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now in the application. By this Response, claim 9 has been amended to correct a clerical error Applicants discovered in preparing this response, but not to limit the claim scope. Support for the amendment to claim 9 is found at page 10, lines 27-37, of Applicants' disclosure. Claims 1-8 and 13-20 have previously been withdrawn by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

During a phone call made by Examiner Havlin to Applicants' representative, an Election of Species Requirement was made for the Species of formula $[Q^+][BR'n(OR'')m]$ recited in independent claim 9. Applicants herewith elect ethylmethylimidazolium dihydrogenborate, i.e., the compound having the structure:



, which is obtained according to example 6 of the barium method set forth on page 21, lines 32-40, of Applicants' disclosure. Specifically, $[Q^+]$ is ethylmethylimidazolium cation, $n = 0$, $OR'' = OH$, and $m = 3$. Applicants note that the negative charge in $[BR'n(OR'')m]$ indicates that one OH from among the OR'' is deprotonated.

If the Examiner believes an interview may be helpful in any way to further prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number set forth below.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 13156-00067-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 26, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Georg M. Hasselmann/
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